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# MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of  
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

## MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman  
UCC Building—P. O. Box 1728—Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 271

HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD  
HELENA, MONTANA

APRIL, 1966

## March Non-Farm Jobs Up 4,700 From Last Year

**174,000 on March Non-Farm Payrolls**  
—More people were at work in non-farm industries in Montana in March, 1966 than in any other March in the State's history. As the spring work season began a record number of 174,000 wage earners were on payrolls of industry and commerce. The total was up 900 from February and exceeded the March 1965 employment figure by 4,700 workers. Most of the February-to-March employment gain occurred in non-manufacturing industries.

The bulk of the March employment gain occurred in government, up 600 over the February total. Payrolls of state and local governmental units posted an increase of 400, and federal employment was up 200. Increased hiring by hotels and motels accounted for all of the 200 worker gain in the service industries group. Trade industries and the mining group each added 100 more workers to March payrolls. Construction, down 100, was the only industry to show a decline. Employment totals in the transportation, utilities, and communications group, and in finance, insurance, and real estate firms did not change from February levels.

Comparison with March 1965 reveal higher employment totals in five of the eight basic industry groups this March. Expansion in trade firms is reflected in an employment gain of 1,000 from a

year ago. Manufacturing payrolls were up 900, with a gain of 700 in the durable goods category and another 200 in the non-durable goods segment. A gain of 400 in the mining industries brought total employment in this group up to 7,500. A more modest gain of 100 occurred in the transportation, utilities, and communications group. Employment in government was up 2,700 from last March, 2,400 accruing to state and local units, and 300 more at the federal level.

**UCC Claims Recede**—The prevalence of new job openings with the start of the spring work season cut the unemployment claim total by 4,200 in the last eight weeks. Substantial weekly claim declines will continue throughout the next two months. The lowest weekly claim total in 1965 was recorded for the week ending October 15 when 1,888 claims were filed. The claim low this year is expected to be 500 under that total.

**YOC Has A Birthday**—The Youth Opportunity Center, an operating arm of the Montana State Employment Service, observed its first anniversary on March 15, 1966. It now has a staff of ten qualified people to assist young people with their employment and job adjustment problems. Since its opening last year, this center has registered 3,521 young people for employment or other services. A total of 1,742 youth

were placed on jobs through March of this year. In addition, 3,584 counseling and guidance interviews were conducted, and 2,426 aptitude and proficiency tests administered to young people who sought services at the center. The applications of 48 others were submitted for Job Corps enrollment, and 109 were enrolled in Manpower Development and Training programs to learn new skills or sharpen up old ones.

**3 Job Corps Camps Active**—About 300 young men are now enrolled in the three Job Corps camps located in Montana at Anaconda, Darby, and Ronan. The Job Corps provides education and work experience where the enrollees live, work, and learn. Each of the Montana units is a rural conservation camp and can accommodate a maximum of 200 young men at each place.

**Job Placements Up 13% From Last Year**—The 23 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service placed 2,241 workers in non-farm jobs during March. This was a 13% increase over the March 1965 total. Employers listed 2,968 industrial job openings with local employment offices during the month, up 10% from last year. Most of the new job orders came from trade, service, and manufacturing industries. The demand for farm and ranch workers also exceeded last year. A total of 1,127 agricultural workers were placed on jobs this March against 1,021 a year ago, a 10.4 per cent increase.

## LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Feb. 1966	Jan. 1966	Feb. 1965	Feb. 1966	Jan. 1966	Feb. 1965	Feb. 1966	Jan. 1966	Feb. 1965	Feb. 1966	Jan. 1966	Feb. 1965	Feb. 1966	Jan. 1966	Feb. 1965
All Manufacturing	3.4	4.3	4.1	2.7	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.9	3.0	1.7	1.9	1.3	.6	.9	.8
Durable Goods	3.3	5.0	3.8	2.7	4.4	2.5	3.5	4.3	4.0	2.0	2.0	1.6	.4	.8	1.0
Primary Metal	2.7	4.3	3.5	2.0	3.4	1.4	3.3	2.9	1.9	1.6	1.6	.7	*	.1	.2
Nondurable Goods	3.7	2.9	4.8	3.0	2.2	4.5	2.6	3.2	1.3	1.2	1.8	.7	1.1	.9	.3
All Mining	6.8	7.4	5.3	3.2	2.2	2.6	5.7	7.6	11.1	2.6	3.4	3.0	1.6	1.8	2.7
Metal Mining	8.6	5.5	5.5	3.5	1.5	1.6	4.4	5.4	10.0	2.6	3.0	3.7	*	.2	3.2

\* Less than .05

## Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for March

**ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg**—Employment starting to edge up in most industry groups with metal manufacturing, mining, and lumber firms setting the hiring pace. Trade and service firms benefitting from increased economic activity. Normal seasonal job trends in agriculture.

**BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup**—Heavy snow caused temporary slowdown of most outdoor activities during early March. The hiring pace picked up later in the month with increased jobs in construction, trade, and service firms. March building permits totaled nearly \$300,000. Some oil field layoffs noted in Roundup area with one rig stacked. Opening of new downtown motel will make 30 more jobs in April. Tempo of spring hiring for farm work picking up speed and some worker shortages expected later in season.

**BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident**—A 5 per cent increase in industry job placements during March related chiefly to increased demand for clerical and sales workers. Good schedule of construction projects ahead of last year. Sawmills keep at peak operations but most logging still down. Farm labor demand below last year.

**BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall**—Seasonal employment upturn evident in most industry groups. Job placements doubled from last year spurred by increased hiring for metal mining activities. Demand for student miners continues unsatisfied. Work on expansion of copper concentrator plant expected to start late April. More workers going to building and highway jobs.

**CUT BANK**—Increased activity in oil fields main development in March labor market. Construction slow in starting. Scheduled opening of Browning lumber mill during April will make more employment. Less farm labor demand this year due chiefly to mechanization.

**DILLON**—Building and highway projects employ good seasonal work force with more expansion as weather clears. Work soon to start on new super market. Roller mill under construction at tale plant. Farm labor demand increasing with some shortages of experienced lambers.

## MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 66	Feb. 66	Mar. 65	Feb. 66 to Mar. 66	Mar. 65 to Mar. 66
Civilian Work Force	250.5	245.2	244.3	5.3	6.2
Total Employment	234.6	228.5	227.3	6.1	7.3
Total Non-agricultural Employment (Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	203.1	202.0	197.4	1.1	5.7
Total Agriculture Employment	174.0	173.1	169.3	.9	4.7
Labor Management Disputes	31.5	26.5	29.9	5.0	1.6
Total Unemployment	.1	.1	.2	—	—
Percent Unemployed	15.3	16.6	16.8	— .8	— 1.0
U. S. Unemployment Rate	6.3	6.8	6.9		
		4.2	5.1		

**GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim**—Good weather allowed resumption of highway construction and work on small building projects; no major projects in view. Slight shortage of female workers developed for jobs in trade and service firms. Start of spring seeding operations found shortage of qualified farm workers.

**GLENDALE, Circle, Wibaux**—Most outdoor work hampered by early March snow storm with construction and oil field activities bearing the brunt of bad weather. Increased worker demand noted in cafes, drive-ins, and other trade firms as spring season begins. Work progressing on two road jobs, new junior college, and service station. Farm labor demand up.

**GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford**—Economic trends exhibited good seasonal strength in most industry segments during March. Some leveling off of hiring was noted in clerical and sales occupations. Good demand existed for most skilled workers especially in construction and manufacturing. Little demand for unskilled classifications. Increasing farm labor demand found shortages of tractor operators and farm hands.

**HAMILTON, Stevensville**—Winter unemployment totals recede as seasonal job opportunities open up in construction, logging, and agriculture. Forest service personnel being recalled for another season's work. Good demand for potato cellar workers.

**HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem**—Seasonal hiring in industry and agriculture exceeds last year. Construction workers recalled to building, highway, and water line projects. New work expected to open up in coming months. Main street hiring picking up. Strong farm labor demand.

**HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs**—Steady labor demand covered most industries during the month. Increased construction activity created shortage of carpenters. Work began on \$700,000 shopping center and road paving job in Canyon Ferry Dam area. Trade and service activity in seasonal expansion. Steady farm labor demand.

**KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish**—Sharp increase noted in file of available workers as most logging operations suspended because of spring break-up conditions and load limits. Lumber mills kept on good schedule but with little new hiring. Good hiring trends in trade and service firms.

**LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett**—Hiring trends in industry and agriculture above previous month and same period last year. Major construction includes \$175,000 grain elevator and \$50,000 Spring Creek bridge. Good labor demand on main street and in agriculture.

**LIVINGSTON, Big Timber**—Most industry groups exhibit good seasonal hiring trends. Building work includes new bank, addition to another, and several small commercial units. Contract let for \$650,000 religious center. Bids for new high school being studied. Gains noted in trade and service employment. Farm demand mainly for calves and lambers.

**MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry**—March labor market

## NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.6
1965	168.3	167.8	169.3	174.2	178.9	187.2	187.3	188.3	187.0	186.8	183.7	181.8	180.0
1966	174.4	173.1	174.0										

## Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for March

trends on the quiet side. Working hours of some trade employees reduced. Only two construction jobs in progress. Three small highway jobs to start later this year. Worker shortages noted for farm jobs.

**MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee Superior**—Local economy presents picture of good economic strength. Good weather allowed most building construction to progress. Trade and service activities in step with employment gains in other industries. Lumber mill employment stays on even keel despite normal spring slowdown in logging. Good demand for farm workers.

**POLSON**—Local labor conditions show promise of good employment year. Seasonal job gains show in construction, trade, service, and agriculture. Logging still beset by spring break-up conditions but most mills on steady work schedules.

**SHELBY**—Workers recalled to missile site construction activities and oil field work highlighted March labor market developments. Many construction workers waiting for work to start on Libby Dam. Farm labor demand mostly for livestock operations.

**SIDNEY**—Industry and farm hiring looking up in variety of activities. Good upswing in demand for farm and ranch workers. Very little major construction work in sight for 1966. Employment edging up gradually in trade and service firms.

**THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs**—Some new unemployment occurred during March as most logging operations were suspended due to spring break-up conditions. Most lumber mills kept on normal schedules. Main street employment at seasonal levels. Practically no farm labor demand.

**WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey**—Job gains in trade industries set the labor market pace during the month. Seasonal hiring occurred in cafes, drive-ins, implement firms, and others. New construction scheduled for early start includes hospital addition and 7 miles of highway work. Little change in oil field employment with average of three rigs working.

## ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Mar. 1966 (2)	Feb. 1966 (3)	Mar. 1965	Feb. '66 to Mar. '66	Mar. '66 Against Mar. '65
<b>NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES</b>	<b>171,000</b>	<b>173,100</b>	<b>169,300</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1,700</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>900</b>
Durable goods	13,500	13,400	12,800	100	700
Lumber and timber products	8,100	8,100	7,800	00	300
Primary metals	3,700	3,700	3,300	00	400
Other (4)	1,700	1,600	1,700	100	00
Nondurable goods	7,500	7,600	7,300	—100	200
Food and kindred products	3,800	3,800	3,800	00	00
Printing and publishing	1,800	1,900	1,600	—100	200
Petroleum refining	1,000	1,000	1,000	00	00
Other (5)	900	900	900	00	00
<b>Mining</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>400</b>
Metal mining	4,900	4,900	4,400	00	500
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,100	1,000	900	100	200
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,500	1,500	1,800	00	—300
<b>Contract Construction</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>8,800</b>	<b>—100</b>	<b>—400</b>
Contractors, building construction	2,500	2,400	2,500	100	00
Contractors, other than building	2,600	2,700	3,100	—100	—500
Contractors, special trade	3,300	3,400	3,200	—100	100
<b>Transportation and utilities</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>16,900</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>100</b>
Interstate railroads	7,200	7,100	7,300	100	—100
Transportation except railroads	3,900	4,000	3,700	—100	200
Utilities including communication	5,900	5,900	5,900	00	00
<b>Trade</b>	<b>41,400</b>	<b>41,300</b>	<b>40,400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,000</b>
Wholesale trade	8,800	8,900	8,600	—100	200
Retail trade	32,600	32,400	31,800	200	800
General merchandise and apparel	5,800	5,800	5,900	00	—100
Food stores	6,100	6,200	5,200	—100	900
Eating and drinking establishments	7,900	7,600	7,800	300	100
Automotive and filling stations	6,700	6,700	6,700	00	00
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,100	6,100	6,200	00	—100
<b>Finance, insurance and real estate</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>00</b>
<b>Services and miscellaneous</b>	<b>24,400</b>	<b>24,200</b>	<b>24,400</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>00</b>
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	2,700	2,500	2,800	200	—100
Personal services	1,900	1,900	2,100	00	—200
Other (6)	19,800	19,800	19,500	00	300
<b>Government</b>	<b>47,400</b>	<b>46,800</b>	<b>44,700</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>2,700</b>
Federal	11,300	11,100	11,000	200	300
State and local	36,100	35,700	33,700	400	2,400
<b>Great Falls Area (Cascade County)</b>	<b>21,800</b>	<b>21,500</b>	<b>21,300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>500</b>
Manufacturing	3,200	3,200	3,000	00	200
Contract construction	1,800	1,600	1,900	200	—100
Transportation and utilities	2,000	2,000	1,900	00	100
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,700	5,700	5,500	00	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,400	3,300	3,500	100	—100
Government	4,400	4,400	4,200	00	200
<b>Billings Area (Yellowstone County)</b>	<b>23,900</b>	<b>23,900</b>	<b>23,800</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>100</b>
Manufacturing	2,600	2,600	2,500	00	100
Contract construction	1,600	1,600	1,500	00	100
Transportation and Utilities	2,400	2,400	2,400	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,500	7,500	7,500	00	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,500	4,500	4,500	00	00
Government	3,900	3,900	4,000	00	—100

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 752 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,125 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

## COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN MARCH 1966 AND MARCH 1965

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	Mar. 1966		Mar. 1965		Mar. 1966		Mar. 1965		Mar. 1966				Mar. 1965				Wk. 4-1	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1966	1965
Anaconda	159	28	83	17	261	71	412	91	100	11	111	34	25	9	34	6	150	313
Billings	407	102	647	108	2,619	934	3,211	754	389	93	482	201	444	115	559	132	1,394	1,896
Bozeman	193	44	205	21	431	138	517	114	120	15	135	40	115	39	154	24	251	346
Butte	348	106	306	45	1,044	261	1,257	245	130	16	146	67	65	14	79	19	526	716
Cut Bank	15	6	75	22	591	177	397	122	18	88	106	26	24	163	187	65	267	190
Dillon	50	19	55	13	154	38	155	32	27	74	101	35	25	89	114	34	113	137
Glasgow	35	1	42	1	256	18	484	33	47	7	54	9	59	5	64	9	169	301
Glendive	46	7	51	8	275	48	301	56	17	34	51	7	22	13	35	2	138	235
Great Falls	608	161	480	65	1,858	468	1,783	371	288	167	455	106	302	72	374	60	810	1,162
Hamilton	41	7	65	8	290	91	419	106	30	12	42	8	28	10	38	2	207	271
Havre	68	5	66	2	255	62	377	106	44	100	144	23	31	54	85	22	169	263
Helena	225	73	204	17	402	115	582	139	93	52	145	50	99	45	144	41	324	523
Kalispell	245	46	225	36	1,886	729	1,906	515	117	26	143	36	121	24	145	26	1,433	1,408
Lewistown	61	18	63	6	251	116	325	64	40	78	118	26	34	55	89	19	197	246
Livingston	62	6	50	5	347	86	473	63	47	18	65	28	55	15	70	15	230	333
Miles City	68	16	56	6	339	104	203	33	44	33	77	25	58	29	87	19	164	200
Missoula	491	136	529	89	1,449	506	1,438	301	240	29	269	51	210	19	229	45	705	989
Polson	67	20	69	13	317	103	416	121	51	21	72	13	10	31	41	7	215	338
Shelby	45	5	60	12	224	59	105	59	33	100	133	21	39	80	119	36	156	145
Sidney	97	8	51	10	301	63	336	64	32	29	61	16	23	24	47	13	173	244
Thom. Falls	70	17	70	14	260	108	295	89	35		35	19	23	2	45	10	222	208
Wolf Point	25	4	54	4	337	84	306	52	24	10	34	6	27	8	35	6	207	198
Billings YOC**	297	14	79		837	62	199		103	1	104	4	4		4			
TOTALS	3,753	849	3,585	522	14,984	4,441	15,897	3,530	2,069	1,014	3,083	851	1,843	915	2,758	612	8,220	10,662

\*Includes 721 claims of the Fed. UI Program 1,133 same a year ago. \*\*Youth Opportunity Center.

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)  
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. (1) 1966	Feb. (2) 1966	Mar. 1965	Mar. (1) 1966	Feb. (2) 1966	Mar. 1965	Mar. (1) 1966	Feb. (2) 1966	Mar. 1965
All Manufacturing	114.97	115.30	116.14	40.2	40.6	42.7	2.86	2.84	2.72
Durable Goods	114.80	115.79	115.46	41.0	41.8	43.9	2.80	2.77	2.63
Primary Metals	104.10	113.88	113.15	36.4	40.1	40.7	2.86	2.84	2.78
Nondurable Goods	115.97	114.00	119.43	37.9	37.5	40.9	3.06	3.04	2.92
Food and Kindred Products	98.58	97.84	109.82	37.2	37.2	42.9	2.65	2.63	2.56
All Mining	120.40	120.05	118.70	38.1	38.6	40.1	3.16	3.11	2.96
Metal Mining	116.00	116.00	112.64	37.3	37.3	37.8	3.11	3.11	2.98
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	112.72	116.22	113.54	37.7	39.8	39.7	2.99	2.92	2.86

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION  
COMMISSION OF MONTANA

UCC BUILDING  
P. O. Box 1728  
HELENA, MONTANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL  
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Accounted for Under  
Act of Congress



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